

THE SURREY INVESTIGATION GROUP ON AERIAL PHENOMENA
(S.I.G.A.P.)

Secretary: Telephone Guildford 63381

Newsletter No. 12 May 1, 1968.

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The Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena is affiliated to the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association and their united aims are to promote unbiased investigation and research into the "Unidentified Flying Object Phenomena".

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+ SCHOOLBOYS SEE FIVE UFOs OVER LIGHTWATER +

+ By +

+ Ron Toft +

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April was an exciting month from a ufological point of view. For no less than five mysterious star-like objects, which changed colour and appeared to be rotating, were seen over the village of Lightwater, near Bagshot.

On the evening of Sunday, April 14, two schoolboys, David Wye (15), of 127 Ambleside Road, Lightwater and Stephen Clue (14), of 151 Ambleside Road, were playing about on heathland at High Curley, Lightwater. At about 8.15 p.m. David saw what at first he thought was a rather bright star, between 50° and 60° above the south-west horizon. He pointed it out to Stephen and both boys stood watching it.

Said Stephen: "It changed colour from white to red to turquoise-blue to red to yellow to green and then to white again. It would remain in one position for a few minutes repeating this sequence several times, then suddenly move sharply to a new position and change colour again".

Then the boys noticed that a second object had appeared in the sky - in the east. This too was between 50° and 60° above the horizon and changed colour like the first object. Both "stars" had fuzzy edges and changed in brightness as well. They seemed to be about the size of a pea held at arm's length. Stephen thought they were very high up, possibly 150 miles.

Unfortunately, the boys did not see the manner in which the objects disappeared, for they had to return home as it was getting late. They watched them however, for about 1½ hours, from 8.15 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. When David arrived home he found that his brother, and his sister and her boyfriend, had also seen the objects.

David and Stephen returned to High Curley the following evening (April 15) - this time accompanied by one of their friends, 15-year old Andrew Osborne, of "Woodpeckers", Ambleside Road.

At about 8.15 p.m. they saw both objects again, or two very similar ones, in approximately the same positions and at the same elevation.

Stephen said: "They both changed colour again and moved from one place to another. They appeared to be revolving and signalling to one another. The only difference was that they were shooting what looked to us like sparks. At first I thought they were satellites, but then I realised that they don't change colour and hover. The objects made no sound and were not aircraft or Army flares either. Neither did they emit any smoke or vapour".

He added: "The objects were brighter than the sky background". According to David there was no cloud present on Sunday and only occasional cloud on Monday. The temperature was moderate on both evenings and there was a light breeze.

The boys reported both sightings to Camberley police, who then passed the details on to Bagshot police, for further investigation. Stephen also mentioned that his elder brother Alan had seen one of the objects on Sunday evening from their house.

At 9 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17, Stephen and David saw yet another star-like object changing colour. This one was in the south-west and the boys saw it from Macdonald Road, which adjoins Ambleside Road. They did not report this sighting to the police.

Do the boys believe in "flying-saucers"? David remarked: "I didn't before, but now these objects have certainly made me wonder". Stephen added: "I thought flying-saucers were a load of rubbish, just tin cans which people threw up in the air and photographed. But now I've changed my mind".

Investigator's report: When I first heard about the sightings I was sceptical, mainly because the witnesses were schoolboys, a class of people prone to exaggeration. But when I met Stephen and David on Tuesday, April 16, I was convinced that they had seen something unusual in the sky.

There are minor discrepancies in their reports, but this is only to be expected. If the whole thing was a hoax their statements would be identical. Also, the boys reported what they had seen to the police. Personally, I doubt if they would have bothered to do this if they had not been telling the truth. Then of course there were other members of the boys' families who saw the objects. It is most unlikely that they would all lie - just to get a bit of publicity!

High Curley is a shrub-covered hilly area, about 400 ft. above sea-level. It is quite surprising the distance that one can see from the top. An excellent UFO observation post. Stephen Clue and I went up there on Friday, April 19. I asked him to show me where the objects had been seen. I then took compass bearings and estimated the angle of elevation. My figures tallied closely with Stephen's. I went up there again that evening hoping to see the objects. Unfortunately cloud covered the larger part of the sky.

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+ S.I.G.A.P. Titbits +
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TUESDAY MAY 7th

Members are reminded that S.I.G.A.P.'s annual meeting will be held on ~~Monday, May 6~~, in the canteen of the Plastic Coatings factory, Guildford, starting at 8 p.m.

S.I.G.A.P. now has 52 members.

Tony Wake has resigned from the post of Treasurer, owing to pressure of work. Graham Raine is Acting Treasurer until the annual meeting.

A scientific civil servant has joined S.I.G.A.P. He is Mr. Michael Prewett, of 20 Loman Road, Mytchett, who works at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough.

It is hoped to publish shortly a list of the names, addresses, telephone numbers and qualifications, where known, of all S.I.G.A.P. members. Each person will then know the other ufologists in his or her town or village and be able to meet from time to time. S.I.G.A.P. members may be living virtually on top of one another and not realise it! If any member has any objections to these details being published will they please notify the secretary as soon as possible or raise the matter at the annual meeting.

S.I.G.A.P. secretary Dick Beet gave a talk on UFOs last month to the Guildford Astronomical Society.

Graham Raine, of 1 Grove Farm, Mytchett, has written to Radio Moscow, hoping that through them he will be able to contact the recently formed Russian UFO Agency. Radio Moscow has replied saying that Graham's letter has been passed on to their science correspondent who, incidentally, was cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin's interpreter when he visited this country. Graham hopes to hear from him in due course.

It seems that S.I.G.A.P. is a trendsetter now. Following publication recently of Dick Beet's excellent analysis of UFO sightings reported to our group last year, Mr. Stephen Smith, Secretary of the British UFO Research Association's National Advisory Council, is urging all groups throughout the country to undertake a similar project. Says Mr. Smith in the Council's circular: "The Surrey Group are going strongly. They have published some basic statistics on the reports that they received during 1967, including temporal distribution tables, tables of UFO types and colours. Perhaps something similar could be produced by you all. If you would like to send me some of your own statistics then I will undertake to publish them as a special edition of the circular. HOW ABOUT IT?"

Members ought to be proud of the S.I.G.A.P. Newsletter - for it is the only monthly group publication in the United Kingdom giving full and regular local UFO news coverage. UFOLOG, published by the Isle of Wight UFO Investigation Society, is also a monthly publication but is merely a catalogue of recent sightings up and down the country, although it is certainly very interesting.

Artist and S.I.G.A.P. member Dan Butcher is to go through the group's files and carry out an analysis of UFO shapes, based on sightings reported to S.I.G.A.P. last year. Where possible he will make sketches and it is hoped to display these at a future meeting.

S.I.G.A.P. is setting up a historical section - to study ancient Surrey UFO reports. Anyone interested in this field of research should write to the Editor.

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+ Area Investigators +
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The following people are the main S.I.G.A.P. area investigators:

- R. Beet, Esq., 195 Epsom Road, Guildford. Guildford 63381.
(Area covered by: Guildford).
- N. Wynn, Esq., 7 Binscombe Crescent, Farncombe, Godalming.
(Godalming).
- O. Fowler, Esq., 149 Mytchett Road, Mytchett, Camberley.
(Aldershot & Farnborough).
- A. Franklin, Esq., 49 Stoke Fields, Guildford. Guildford 67531.
(Guildford).
- G. Raine, 1 Grove Farm, Mytchett Road, Mytchett, Camberley.
(Camberley).
- R. Toft, Esq., 14 Buckhurst Road, Frimley Green, Camberley.
(Camberley & Bagshot).
- R. Munford, Esq., "Hazeldene", The Paddock, Westcott, Dorking.
(Dorking). Dorking 81484.
- R. Colborne, Esq., 38 Oriental Road, Woking.
(Woking).
- A. Cockburn-Smith, Esq., "Cheyne", Albany Close, Blackhills,
Esher. Esher 64353.
(Esher).

In addition, S.I.G.A.P. now has 18 assistant area investigators covering many districts, including: Jacobs Wells, Pirbright, Cranleigh and Byfleet. Anyone can become an area investigator, though it is advisable to have some form of transport.

Buy "Flying Saucer Review" and keep up to date with the international UFO scene. £1-8-0d p.a. Bi-monthly. Circulation 3,000. Subscriptions to: 49A Kings Grove, London S.E.15.

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+ BALL OF FIRE OVER SURBITON +
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Twenty-four year old Kevin Woodgate and his wife, who live at 30 Glenbuck Court, Glenbuck Road, Surbiton, saw a glowing ball of fire in the sky from their bedroom window, shortly after midnight on April 4.

Mr. Woodgate gives the following account of the sighting: "On the night of April 4, at around 12.25 a.m., my wife and I had just got into bed. As I turned round to lie down my eyes caught sight of an extremely bright object high up in the sky. Thinking it was a shooting-star, I called my wife to look. But instead of moving down and burning itself out, it remained in the same spot. We both watched it while it flashed on and off like a police light. It was a bright reddy-orange colour. The object remained in the same position for around two minutes, and then began to move down and away towards London very slowly. The light remained flashing for most of the time, but at one point stopped, perhaps for 20 seconds. The object was seen for around six to eight minutes altogether. No noise was heard. The approximate size of the object when flashing was around six times as large as an aircraft landing light. As to the shape of the object, nothing was seen except the light, which seemed to start as a circle and then project outwards horizontally.

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+ CIGAR-SHAPED UFO SEEN +
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When site engineer Robert Young went to bed at about 1 a.m. on April 9, a bright blue flash lit up his room.

Mr. Young (20), of 90 Seely Road, London S.W. 17, said: "My first reaction, as my bedroom faces railway lines, was that it was a bright train flash. As I heard no sound of a train approaching I looked out of the window. At first I saw nothing. Then all of a sudden a huge oblong shape lit up the sky with a vivid white light with a blue tint. This object was travelling so fast that an estimate of its speed would be impossible. Then suddenly it stopped and a very bright vivid orange glow appeared underneath it. The object then descended towards the ground out of sight. Immediately afterwards I went and told my future father-in-law and we proceeded to inspect the area in which I estimated the object descended. But nothing was found.

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STOP PRESS: Mr. K. Miles will be the guest speaker at the annual meeting. He recently visited Valansole in France, where a UFO and its occupants were encountered, and he will be bringing along slides showing the effect that the UFO had on the ground.